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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## SIR:

Submitted herewith are copies of the publications (the U.S. patent publication is not enclosed) identified on the attached Patent Office form PTO/SB/08A. Also enclosed is an International Search Report.

Japanese Nos. 7-162757, 6-205302, 6-292091 and 2002-10274 are identified on pages 1-2 of the specification.

It is respectfully requested that the publications submitted herewith be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Hortz Req. No 22,974

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Application Number Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO Herewith Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE NAITO First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Group Art Unit Examiner Name 06394/LH 1 Attorney Docket Number Sheet. of U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Relevant Publication Date Cite No<sup>1</sup> Exam. Initials Document Number Code<sup>2</sup> Applicant MM-DD-YYYY Portion Hashimoto et al 2003/0151673 Α1 08-14-2003 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Cite Exam Initials  $T^6$ Document Number4 Code5 Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Offc<sup>3</sup> JΡ 9-51479 Α 02-18-1997 **x**\* 09-27-2002 Х\* JР 2002-281386 Α 09-14-2001 JP 2001-251636 A Х\* JP 6-205302 HITOMI ET AL 07-22-1994 Х\* Α 2002-010274 ITO 01-11-2002 **X**\* JP Α JP 6-292091 Α SHIMURA 10-18-1994 х\* JP 7-162757 Α KADOTA 06-23-1995 X\*

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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abstract.

Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.